



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending April 20, 2003

**Fair week for Field Work:** There were 4 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated 2 percent short, 73 percent adequate and 25 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included spring plowing; planting oats and tobacco; fixing fences; applying lime and fertilizer; caring for livestock; preparing machinery for tillage and planting; and hauling manure.

**Crops:** This week warmer temperatures and little rainfall allowed farmers to complete more field work as compared to previous weeks. Some areas were still too wet to do much, however. Cool damp conditions slowed activity later in the week. The percent of spring plowing completed jumped to 20 percent, a large increase but still 36 percent behind 2002 and 22 percent below the five-year average. The wheat crop condition remained about the same, with 1 percent rated as very poor, 2 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 59 percent good and 9 percent excellent. With all of the field work farmers were able to do, the percent of oats planted increased 22 points to 32 percent. Percentage of oats planted is still 12 percent behind last year but only 5 percent behind the five-year average. The percent of oats emerged across the state increased slightly to 8 percent, 9 percent behind both 2002 and the five-year average. This was the first week any significant amount of tobacco was planted, with 38 percent of tobacco beds being planted. The alfalfa and timothy clover condition did not change much over the past week. The alfalfa stand was rated as 2 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 61 percent good and 5 percent excellent. Timothy clover stand was rated as 9 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 64 percent good and 4 percent excellent. Some farmers reported seeing mites and grubs in the timothy stands.

**Livestock:** Despite warmer temperatures, pastures were still wet and not much growth was observed. The pasture condition in Pennsylvania did not change much over the week, with 6 percent rated as very poor, 14 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 38 percent good and 4 percent excellent.

**Fruit & Vegetable:** There was a large increase in percent of both peach and cherry trees that reached the pink stage. Twenty-eight

percent of peaches reached the pink stage, up 14 percent from last week. Twenty-two percent of cherries reached the pink stage, up 22 percent from last week. Both peach and cherry development were 28 and 22 percent ahead of 2002 but 28 and 31 percent behind the five-year average, respectively.

**U.S. As Of April 13, 2003:** Highlights: The cool, wet weather in the Southeast and Tennessee Valley hindered fieldwork and planting. Heavy rainfall caused flooding in some areas. Fieldwork and planting progressed with few interruptions in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains. Early-week rains in the central and eastern Corn Belt improved soil moisture conditions but prevented planting across most of the area until late in the week. During the week, below-normal temperatures interrupted winter grain development across the eastern half of the Nation. Planting gained momentum along the Pacific Coast and in the Pacific Northwest Region. Crop emergence and growth were slow in the Delta States due to cool weather. Also, saturated soils hindered germination in many parts of the Delta and Southeast. Corn: Planting was 5 percent complete, 1 percentage point ahead of this time last year and the 5-year average. Planting was active in the central and southern Great Plains, middle Mississippi Valley, and along the lower Ohio Valley. Heavy showers delayed planting on the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Winter Wheat: Four percent of the Nation's winter wheat was headed, the same as last year but behind the 5-year average of 6 percent. Below-normal temperatures hindered growth across the eastern half of the Nation. In the Great Plains, below-freezing temperatures were recorded as far south as central Texas. Small grains: The barley crop was 13-percent seeded, compared with last year's 9 percent and the 5-year average of 11 percent. Warm weather supported planting in the Pacific Northwest. Above-normal temperatures also encouraged the start of barley planting in the northern Great Plains. Oat seeding advanced to 16 percent, the same as last year's progress but behind the 18-percent average for this date. Planting remained very active in the middle Missouri Valley. Meanwhile, rain prevented planting in Pennsylvania. Planting began in the upper Mississippi Valley and northern Great Plains.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 20, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	Percent		
Spring plowing	20	56	44
Oats, planted	32	44	37
Oats, emerged	8	17	17
Tobacco Beds, planted	38	100	98
Peaches, pink stage	28	0	56
Cherries, pink stage	22	0	53

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 20, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter wheat	1	2	29	59	9
Oats	1	0	46	53	0
Alfalfa stand	2	6	26	61	5
Timothy clover stand	9	2	21	64	4
Pasture conditions	6	14	38	38	4

# Weather Data For Week Ending April 20, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK TEMPERATURE				WEATHER SUMMARY PRECIPITATION		April 1, 03 - April 20, 03 PRECIPITATION		GDD BASE 50F		GDD BASE 40F TOT	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL	DFN		
NORTHWEST												
Erie	81	31	56	+11	0.00	0	1.18	-0.98	4	59	+51	137
Franklin_AG	81	30	54	+8	0.00	0	1.91	-0.42	8	49	+41	156
Meadville	80	31	54	+10	0.00	0	1.98	-0.22	4	47	+43	148
Mercer	81	25	53	+7	0.00	0	1.21	-1.07	3	54	+47	155
Springboro	83	28	55	+9	0.00	0	2.31	+0.23	7	50	+39	132
Warren	80	28	52	+7	0.00	0	1.92	-0.41	7	31	+27	115
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Regi on	78	25	52	+10	0.00	0	2.52	+0.32	6	45	+45	124
Empori um	83	29	51	+7	0.27	2	2.21	-0.01	8	41	+39	144
Kane	77	22	46	+4	0.00	0	2.18	-0.22	5	10	+10	66
Laporte	79	28	47	-1	0.11	2	2.47	+0.34	9	25	+10	87
Lock_Haven	86	31	51	+4	0.13	3	1.61	-0.39	9	50	+35	154
Port_Al i egany	80	26	49	+5	0.00	0	1.98	-0.07	6	27	+24	100
Renovo	85	32	52	+4	0.10	3	1.86	-0.14	10	49	+34	155
Ri dgway	80	26	49	+6	0.25	1	0.94	-1.28	6	32	+30	125
Stevenson_Dam	82	29	50	+7	0.26	2	2.30	+0.08	9	34	+32	133
Towanda	82	27	49	+3	0.09	1	1.80	-0.08	9	23	+9	90
Wel l sboro	81	26	47	+5	0.05	1	2.05	+0.55	7	25	+23	84
Wi l l i amsport_AP	85	31	52	+3	0.33	3	2.18	+0.05	10	53	+24	156
NORTHEAST												
Haw l ey	83	24	47	+2	0.04	1	1.43	-0.80	6	19	+15	77
Wi l kes-Barre/Sc	84	29	52	+5	0.15	3	1.11	-0.80	9	53	+37	138
Susquehanna	84	28	49	+6	0.08	1	1.65	-0.72	7	22	+19	91
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	82	30	54	+7	0.00	0	1.03	-1.06	6	72	+56	200
New_Castle	84	30	56	+10	0.00	0	0.98	-1.02	5	69	+63	201
Sl i ppery_Rock	82	29	55	+10	0.00	0	1.34	-0.72	4	69	+64	199
CENTRAL												
Al toona/Bl ai r_C	78	33	51	+3	0.04	2	1.47	-0.60	11	80	+54	190
Du_Boi s	79	33	53	+7	0.02	2	2.10	-0.10	8	72	+66	178
Lewi stown	85	34	52	+2	0.14	1	1.23	-0.66	7	64	+29	172
Mi ddl etown	82	35	53	+1	0.19	2	1.72	-0.35	10	61	+16	170
Pr i nce_Gall i tzi	79	28	50	+4	0.00	0	1.73	-1.07	5	57	+50	152
Sel i nsgrove	85	32	51	+2	0.31	3	2.17	+0.09	11	50	+26	140
State_Col l ege_P	82	35	52	+5	0.02	1	2.06	+0.15	9	58	+43	160
EAST CENTRAL												
Al l entown-Bethl	86	30	52	+2	0.25	2	1.35	-0.92	9	45	+16	141
Lehi ghton	85	30	49	-1	0.15	2	1.23	-0.84	10	32	+9	109
Matamoras	84	26	48	-1	0.01	1	1.23	-1.33	8	20	+3	76
Tobyhanna	86	31	51	+8	0.10	1	1.71	-0.94	7	35	+34	116
SOUTHWEST												
Pi t tsburgh/Al l e	84	40	59	+10	0.00	0	2.72	+0.66	8	123	+97	270
Derry	85	31	53	+7	0.00	0	1.91	-0.22	8	84	+75	192
Meyersdale	77	28	48	+0	0.16	2	2.67	+0.07	11	42	+29	131
Mount_Pl easant	82	30	55	+9	0.07	2	1.84	-0.88	9	79	+73	216
Pi t tsburgh_Intl	82	35	58	+9	0.01	1	1.65	-0.44	8	118	+87	263
Rector	83	29	54	+8	0.00	0	1.69	-1.03	7	73	+67	199
Waynesburg	83	31	56	+9	0.00	0	1.63	-0.64	7	88	+67	230
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Bi glervi l l e	83	34	53	+1	0.36	2	2.61	+0.41	10	66	+21	177
Everett	82	30	50	+3	0.11	3	2.94	+0.77	13	65	+46	173
Hanover	83	33	52	+2	0.31	2	2.16	-0.04	9	65	+20	176
Shi ppsburg	85	34	53	+2	0.59	3	1.95	-0.18	11	71	+24	190
South_Mountai n	80	30	49	+0	0.60	2	1.80	-0.27	10	49	+26	132
York_AP	85	30	53	+1	0.23	2	1.49	-0.90	10	64	+18	174
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	86	33	53	+4	0.21	2	2.35	-0.05	11	49	+24	156
Hamburg	86	35	52	+4	0.03	2	1.75	-0.69	9	50	+36	145
Hopewell	83	33	51	-3	0.09	1	2.16	-0.24	9	44	-4	127
Lancaster_AP	83	34	52	+2	0.12	1	1.56	-0.67	8	54	+23	156
Neshami ny_Fal l s	87	34	52	+3	0.00	0	1.87	-0.73	10	49	+19	147
New_Hol l and	85	34	51	+2	0.06	1	1.83	-0.40	8	49	+18	144
Phi l adel phi a	87	38	55	+4	0.08	1	1.86	-0.54	8	70	+19	195
Phi l adel phi a_NE	86	37	55	+3	0.00	0	1.50	-0.90	8	60	+9	172
Readi ng_AP	84	32	53	+4	0.13	2	1.70	-0.78	11	57	+34	157
Val l ey_Forge_Na	82	28	50	-3	0.02	1	1.62	-0.78	8	40	-8	131
Wi l l ow_Grove	84	35	54	+4	0.02	1	1.67	-0.93	9	58	+28	159

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).  
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.  
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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# INTERNET REPORTERS' COMMENTS, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

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**"It was a good week for drying out the fields. The bad weather that was forecast earlier in the week failed to materialize, so by Friday and Saturday field conditions were good to excellent on the majority of soils. Plowing and planting of oats took center stage."**

**- Wes Ramsey, Warren County**

**"A great week for weather. Sunshine, slight breezes and the ground is workable. Field work has begun. Plowing, disking and planting have started. Fields have good moisture in the topsoil. Some showers stopped activity for a few hours. Rye fields are green and alfalfa is growing. Fertilizer applications being made to get a jump start on growth. Looking forward to more sunshine and field work to continue."**

**- Pamela Barnes, Tioga County**

**"Still too wet to do anything in fields. Some of our neighbors were trying to mud in oats but gave up - just too wet!!"**

**- Marina Kemper, Huntington County**

**"Finding cereal rust mites in 95% of timothy fields scouted. Also seeing damage to some of the timothy."**

**- Greg Hostetter, Juniata County**

**"Last week offered the first good chance for field work. We don't expect showers until evening 4/21/2003."**

**- John Leckie, Lancaster County**

**"Busy week in the field, plowing, working ground, planting alfalfa."**

**- Bob Anderson, Lancaster County**

**"Field work is in full swing. Several nice days with every farmer working in the fields. No-till corn and conventional corn being planted. Lots of spring alfalfa also being planted. Please take the extra safety steps during this busy season. Happy Easter!"**

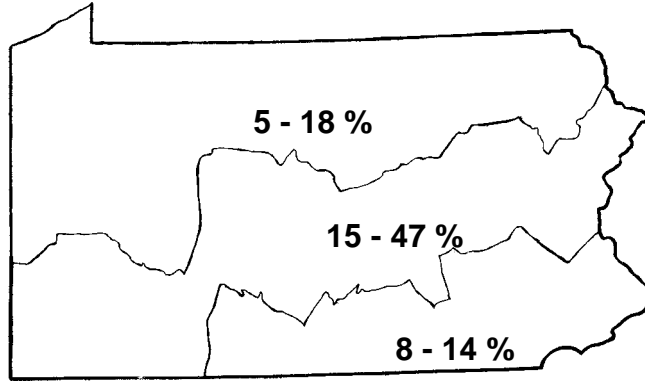
**- Axel Linde, Lancaster County**

**"Field activity is now underway. Tillage, spraying small grains, applying fertilizer, and hauling manure are the main activities this week. Warm breezy weather followed by cool damp conditions slowed the field activity late in the week."**

**- Andrew Frankenfield,  
Montgomery County**

# SPRING PLOWING

*Percent Completed*



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